**Utah Independent Redistricting Commission**

**Commission Meeting Minutes**

Anchor Location: Taylorsville State Office Building

Room #1400 First Floor

4315 South 2700 West

Taylorsville, UT 84129-2128

June 15, 2021

4:00 p.m.

**Public Meeting Minutes**

Attendance - Commission Members

Chair, Utah Independent Redistricting Commission - Rex Facer – Virtually

Commissioner Lyle Hillyard

Commissioner Jeff Baker

Commissioner William A. Thorne

Commissioner Rob Bishop

Commissioner Christine M. Durham

Commissioner Karen Hale

Attendance - Staff and Others in Attendance at Anchor Location:

Gordon Haight, Commission Executive Director

Jacob Acquah, GIS Analyst

Aly Escobar, Administrative Coordinator

Beau Bayless, Intern

Christelle Gatoro, Intern

Matt Cannon, Legal Counsel from Ray Quinney & Nebeker

Kamie Brown, Legal Counsel from Ray Quinney & Nebeker

Aaron Evans, Group Account Director – Love Communications

Megan Griffin, Director of Legacy Media – Love Communications

Tiff Smith, Public Relations Supervisor – Love Communications

Emily Christopher, Digital Content Paid Social & Media – Love Communications

Rachel Thomson, Love Communications

Trevor Roberts, Love Communications

Jeralynn Bishop

Virtual Attendance –

Nate Persily, Professor of Law - Presenting Virtually

Austin Isbell, Director of Public Relations

Note: A copy of meeting materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found on the Public Notice Website. The minutes may refer to the recording found on the Public Notice Website with the approximate number on the recording where an issue is being discussed.

I. Welcome - Rex Facer

Commission Chair Rex Facer welcomed everyone at 4:03 pm.

II. Introduction: Beau Bayless & Christelle Gatoro, Interns

Beau Bayless and Christelle Gatoro introduced themselves to the commission. Both are MPA students at the University of Utah.

III. Introduction: Noah Rosenberg, Better Boundaries

Chair Facer introduced Noah Rosenberg from Better Boundaries to the commission.

Noah Rosenberg introduced himself as the executive director of the nonprofit organization Better Boundaries. He explained some of the background of his organization as well as their goals for improving Utah redistricting. He explained some of the process behind the ballot initiative that led to the creation of the Independent Redistricting Commission. Noah further explains his organization has always had a goal to be as bipartisan and nonpartisan as they can. Better Boundaries views their goal as helping to improve the process and help voices to be heard rather than submitting maps themselves.

Commissioner Durham asked if Better Boundaries is helping make software available to the public. Noah responded that yes, they are, and he has talked to Gordon Haight about emphasizing user friendly tools and including tools to show communities of interest. He also mentions a tool called Representable.

Commissioner Thorne asks if that tool can work with the ESRI software.

Noah explains how that would work.

Commissioner Hillyard, Commissioner Thorne, and Noah discussed some specific language around private conversations with citizens and the goals of transparency and community involvement.

Please refer to 01:45 in the recording to hear the full presentation and discussion. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 15, 2021, post. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>

IV. Action Item – Approval of the Minutes of May 25, 2021

Chair Facer presented the next action item and asked for any correction to the minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Baker mentioned a mistake regarding the number of maps to be created compared to the number of districts to be prepared. He asked for a correction regarding those numbers.

*Commissioner Hale made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections.*

*Commissioner Hillyard seconded the motion.*

The motion moved to a vote.

The vote was recorded as follows:

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner Christine M. Durham Aye*

*Commissioner Rob Bishop Aye*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Action Item – Approval of the Minutes of June 4, 2021

Chair Facer asked for any needed correction to the minutes from June 4, 2021

*Commissioner Hillyard made a motion to approve the minutes.*

*Commissioner Hale seconded the motion.*

The motion moved to a vote.

The vote was recorded as follows:

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner Christine M. Durham Aye*

*Commissioner Rob Bishop Aye*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Presentation: Standards and Requirements for Districting Discussion with Legal Council

Chair Facer moved to the next order of business and introduced the legal team for their presentation.

Matt Cannon presented on various legal requirements and considerations related to the commission, including the threshold requirements for the maps, map criteria, and use of political data.

Please refer to 24:30 in the recording for this presentation.  The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 15, 2021, post. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>

Nate Persily presented as part of the legal team’s presentation.

This presentation focused on principles guiding redistricting.

Please refer to 1:01:40 in the recording for this presentation.  The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 15, 2021, post. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>

VII. Presentation: Public Outreach Plan – Discussion with Love Communications

Staff from Love Communications presented their suggestions for advertising and outreach, including target audience, media types to focus on, and cost.

Please refer to 1:38:40 in the recording for this presentation. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 15, 2021, post. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>

Gordon Haight also discussed some staff actions regarding outreach, including reaching out to cities and towns and signing up for events such as county fairs.

VII. Action Item: Discussion and approval of schedule and locations for public hearings across the state – Rex Facer (Commission motion required)

Chair Facer presented the item for discussion. He also noted discussion from the legal team presentation suggesting that the commission schedule a meeting for October 16 for timing requirements.

Commissioner Durham made a motion that an October 16 meeting be scheduled with a location TBD. She further mentioned some considerations for the location of that meeting considering other areas that the commission will be visiting.

Gordon Haight read a public comment regarding the locations of public meetings, with the comment asking the commissioners to consider minority makeup of areas they visit as well as other suggestions for things like PSA-style messages.

Commissioner Hillyard asks if the commenter understood the full context of why locations were selected.

Gordon explained that the context was discussed in a previous meeting and explained that he simply wants to help ensure that staff gives comments to the commissioners.

Commissioner Durham stated her motion was still on the table.

Commissioner Hillyard seconded the motion for a meeting on October 16.

Chair Facer called the question as to the motion

The vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye

Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye

Commissioner Karen Hale Aye

Commissioner Christine M. Durham Aye

Commissioner Rob Bishop Aye

Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye

Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Hale thanked Gordon for sharing the earlier public comment. She further commented on the importance of maintaining relationships with community organizations and the importance of considering how different groups and organizations will use information differently. Gordon explained some plans to send staff and interns to various communities. Even if the commission doesn’t meet in a community, efforts will be taken for each community to feel involved.

Commissioner Hillyard and Gordon discussed clarification as to how commissioners will receive public comment and what role staff plays in gathering and distributing those comments.

Commissioner Durham noted agreement with Commissioner Hale and talked about considerations that go into determining what cities to visit. She ended her comments by stating that perhaps this is not the meeting to finalize plans. Gordon agreed that there are still some considerations left before finalization.

Chair Facer summarized the discussion by stating that there is still work before finalization of locations, but expressed an effort to finalize those with the necessary considerations.

Commissioner Thorne raised the suggestion of potentially a few primarily digital meetings. Gordon mentioned the worth of the people in smaller communities still getting to interact the commissioners in person. Commissioner Hillyard shared his experience with the Logan town hall meetings with people watching events live as well as in the days after with recordings and some other potential application to future commission meetings. Commissioner Hillyard also asked the legal team about time requirements for commission meetings as well as setting a time limit for public comments in meetings. The legal team explained the language of the law. Commissioner Hillyard made suggestions for potentially keeping comments timely and having somebody at the meeting explain the rules before the meeting.

Commissioner Thorne asked about what would be a “material conversation” as far as talking to people before a meeting.

The legal team will respond after some research.

Gordon suggested that perhaps commissioners can mingle with the public before meetings without necessarily discussing specifics of mapping. Gordon also presented some options for how the maps will actually be drawn when census data arrives. He gave a few ideas and options as to how to best prepare and facilitate the commissioners’ drawing of the maps. Commissioner Bishop commented on how the legislature proceeded in 2010 for map drawing and some lessons that might be learned from those events. He also discussed some ideas for keeping town hall meetings relevant and useful.

Commissioner Durham commented on Gordon’s earlier suggestions for drawing the maps and would prefer to work in small teams. Commissioner Thorne, Chair Facer, Gordon, and the legal team discuss what conversations the commissioner can have and when as far as when things need to be open to the public. Gordon again emphasized the importance of finding a way for the public to feel the process is transparent and includes their comments.

*Commissioner Hillyard moved to adjourn meeting at 7:07 pm.*